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Director
Intelligence Community Staff
Washington, D.C. 20505

ICS 4247-88
11 July 1988

12 JUL 1988

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MEMORANDUM FOR: Ambassador Morton I. Abramowitz
Asst Secy for Intelligence and Research
Department of State

Mr. Richard S. Stolz
Deputy Director for Operations
Central Intelligence Agency

Ambassador L. Paul Bremmer
Ambassador at Large for Counterterrorism
Department of State

Deputy Director for Operations
National Security Agency

Deputy Director for Foreign Intelligence (VP)
Defense Intelligence Agency

Mr. Andre LeGallo
National Intelligence Officer for Counterterrorism
National Intelligence Council

SUBJECT: Multilateral Counterterrorist Data System (MCDS)

1. The Intelligence Community Staff, in coordination with the Interagency Intelligence Committee on Terrorism and the CIA Counterterrorism Center, has been exploring the requirement and potential for improving automated information handling and data base support for agencies and commands with missions in counterterrorism. The DCI's Intelligence Information Handling Committee has circulated for Community comment a draft concept of design and operations which seeks to address the constraints inhibiting the utility of current intelligence support facilities. A closer exploration of the concept, to focus (inter alia) on operating requirements, security, and costs, has been proposed.

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2. A primary objective of the prospective program would be the expansion of counterterrorism information services to key organizations through more effective dissemination of current intelligence and the maintenance of a broader spectrum of reference and historical data bases which would be directly accessible by participating organizations. MCDS is envisioned as a Community undertaking, to which participating organizations would contribute, as appropriate. [redacted]

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3. In the latter regard, it is recognized that there are a number of issues and concerns which have inhibited the interchange of data within the counterterrorism community and restricted the utility of current information handling facilities, such as DESIST. Their implications, as concerns the potential for realizing envisioned information service improvements, need to be assessed at the outset, inasmuch as there would be little point in pursuing initiatives that would be inadequately supported and underutilized by the Community. [redacted]

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4. Toward this end, I would like to meet with you or appropriate policy-level representatives of your organizations to explore these questions, focusing on issues relating to the interchange of data, security safeguards, and the cost-benefit aspects of the prospective improvement initiatives. The meeting will be held on 28 July 1988 at 1030 [redacted]

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[redacted] Please advise [redacted]
[redacted] of your anticipated representation. [redacted]

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Edward J. Heinz
Lieutenant General, USAF

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